



Youth Risk Behavior Survey

Violence and Injury

General Survey Information

The Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) is part of a biennial national effort led by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The YRBS monitors health risks and behaviors in six categories, which are related to the leading causes of mortality and morbidity among both youth and adults. Data is collected from 9th through 12th graders on behaviors that contribute to physical activity, nutrition, tobacco use, alcohol and other drug use, violence and injuries, and sexual behavior.

The Problem

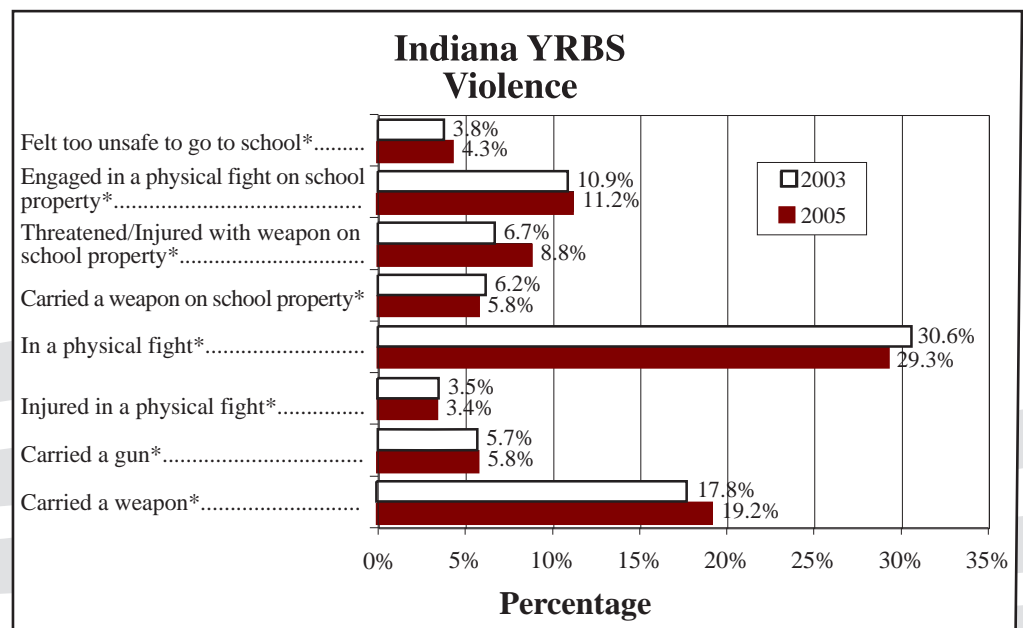
Violence is a serious threat to the health and well being of children and adolescents in the United States today. According to the CDC, behaviors such as being involved in a physical fight and carrying a weapon can contribute to violence.¹

Violence

The 2005 Indiana YRBS shows that 5.8% of students reported having carried a weapon on school property within the previous 30 days, 8.8% of students were threatened or injured with a weapon on school property one or more times during the past 12 months, and 4.3% of students felt too unsafe to go to school on one or more times during the past 30 days.

Comparing YRBS data from 2003 and 2005, the percentage of females who were hit, slapped or physically hurt on purpose by their boyfriend or girlfriend during the past 12 months increased significantly from 9.3% to 13.5%. Additional data are displayed in Figure I.

FIGURE I



*One or more times during the past 12 months.

** One or more times during the past 30 days.

Suicide

National statistics show that suicide is the third leading cause of death among young people from 15 to 24 years of age in the United States.³ According to the 2005 Indiana YRBS, 27.3% of high school students reported feeling sad or hopeless one or more times during the past 12 months, and 18% of students said they had seriously considered attempting suicide. Between 2003 and 2005, the percentage of Indiana youth who reported having attempted suicide one or more times during the past 12 months increased from 6.6% to 9.6%. Students whose suicide attempt required medical attention increased from 1.6% in 2003 to 3.5% in 2005. Additional data are displayed in Figure II.

2005 Indiana Youth Risk Behavior Survey

FIGURE II

Indiana YRBS Suicide

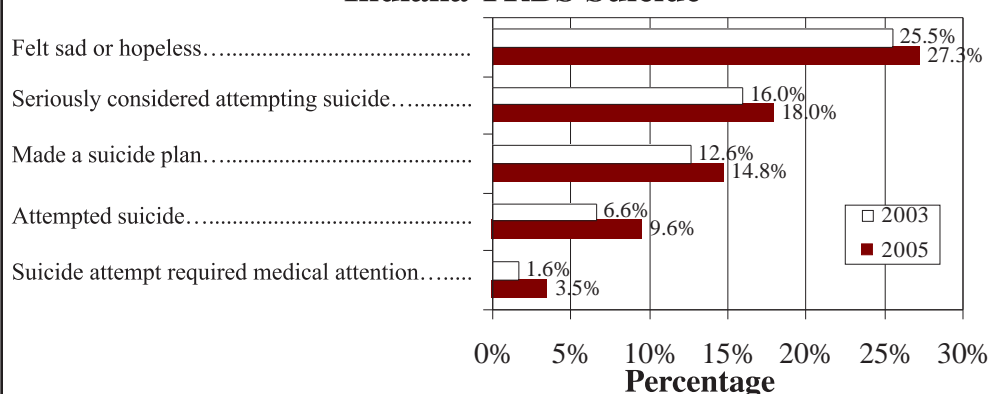
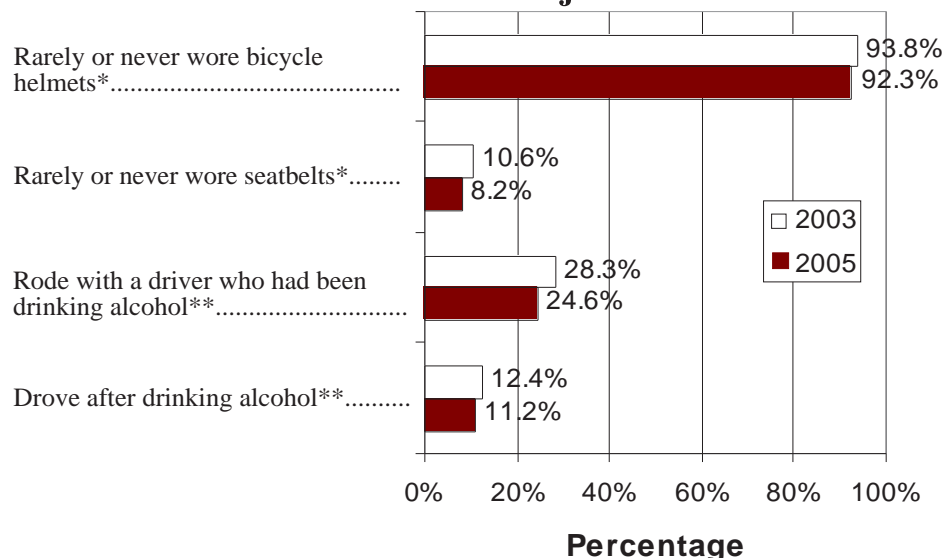


FIGURE III

Indiana YRBS Injuries



* One or more times during the past 12 months.

** One or more times during the past 30 days.

Healthy People 2010 goals:

- ☐ 15-19 Increase the use of safety belts to 92 percent.
- ☐ 15-23 Increase use of helmets by bicyclists (developmental).
- ☐ 15-38 Reduce physical fighting among adolescents to 32 percent.
- ☐ 15-39 Reduce weapon carrying by adolescents on school property to 4.9 percent.
- ☐ 26-6 Reduce the proportion of adolescents who report that they rode, during the previous 30 days, with a driver who had been drinking alcohol to 30 percent.

References:

1. Youth Violence Fact sheet. Centers for Disease Control. Accessed from <<http://www.cdc.gov/ncipc/factsheets/yvfacts.htm>>
2. Child Passenger Safety: Fact Sheet. National Center for Injury Prevention and Control. Centers for Disease Control. Accessed from
3. Injury and Violence Prevention. Healthy People 2010. Accessed from <<http://www.healthypeople.gov/Document/HTML/volume2/15Injury.htm>>

Injuries

Helmets are the single most effective safety devices available to avoid head injuries. According to the CDC, bicycle helmets have been shown to reduce the risk of head injury by as much as 85% and the risk of brain injury by as much as 88%.⁴ According to the 2005 Indiana YRBS, 92.3% of high school students in Indiana reported rarely or never wearing a bicycle helmet.

Increased use of safety belts is the most effective means to reduce the risk of death and serious injury of occupants in motor vehicle crashes.⁴ According to the 2005 Indiana YRBS, 8.2% of high school students reported rarely or never wearing a seat belt while riding in a car driven by someone else (See Figure III).

Alcohol is a major factor in many motor vehicle crash deaths and injuries. The National Center for Injury Prevention and Control show that more than two-thirds of fatally injured children were riding with drinking drivers.² According to 2005 Indiana YRBS, 24.6% of high school students rode with a driver who had been drinking alcohol one or more times during the past 30 days. The survey showed that for females there was a significant decrease in those who rode in a car driven by someone who had been drinking from 2003 (27.1%) to 2005 (21.6%). Additional data are displayed in Figure III.

For More Information:

Indiana State Department of Health: 1-800-433-0746

2005 Indiana Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS): www.in.gov/yrbs

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention - Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System: www.cdc.gov/healthyyouth/yrbs